

U.S. Serial No. 10/689,537
Response to Office Action dated August 4, 2005

REMARKS

The present invention is a portable terminal device of the foldable type comprising a pair of flat cabinets openably connected to each other by a hinge mechanism, each of the cabinets comprising a front cabinet segment to be opposed to the other cabinet when closed and a rear cabinet segment joined to the front cabinet segment. One of the pair of cabinets has the front cabinet segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and has the rear cabinet segment thereof engaged with the front cabinet segment thereof. The other cabinet has the rear cabinet segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and has the front cabinet segment thereof engaged with the rear cabinet segment thereof.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0173281). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding Claim 1, it is alleged that Kobayashi teaches a portable terminal device of the foldable type having a pair of flat cabinets openably connected to each other by a hinge mechanism (13) of Fig. 1, wherein first housing (11) and second housing (12) each have a front cabinet segment to be opposed to the other cabinet when closed as in Fig. 2A. It is further alleged that a rear cabinet segment (51) of Fig. 1 is joined to the front cabinet segment and, one of the pair of cabinets having the front cabinet segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and having the rear cabinet segment thereof engaged with the front cabinet segment thereof, and the other cabinet having the rear cabinet segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and having the front cabinet segment thereof engaged with the rear cabinet segment thereof.

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It is respectfully submitted that Kobayashi does not disclose a device having a pair of flat cabinets, each of which has a front cabinet segment and a rear cabinet segment. Each of the flat cabinets (11) and (12) of Kobayashi appear to have only a single segment. It is alleged that (51) is a rear cabinet segment of flat cabinet (11), however, at paragraph 0040, component (51) is said to be an operating portion formed in an inner surface of the alleged flat cabinet (11). A front and rear cabinet segment for flat cabinet (12) is not specifically pointed out in the Office Action.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the features of present Claim 1 are not described or suggested by Kobayashi. Removal of the present rejection of Claim 1, and Claims 2 and 3 depending from Claim 1, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Kubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,749). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding Claim 4, it is alleged that Kobayashi teaches the limitation of the claim as discussed above, and Kubo et al. teaches a front cabinet segment of a manipulation-side cabinet having a circular-arc piece projecting from the end thereof and positioned between a pair of annular pieces, and the rear cabinet segment of the manipulation-side cabinet provided at one end thereof with a partial member joined to the circular-arc piece for forming a hollow cylinder.

Regarding Claim 5, it is alleged that Kubo teaches a portable terminal device of the foldable type wherein the front cabinet segment of the display-side cabinet is provided with a projecting

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circular-arc piece positioned between the pair of annular pieces, and the rear cabinet segment of the display-side cabinet provided at the end thereof with a partial member joined to the circular-arc piece for forming a hollow cylinder.

It is respectfully submitted that Kubo et al. does not disclose a pair of flat cabinets, each of the cabinets having a front cabinet segment and a rear cabinet segment, therefore the claimed locations of the circular-arc piece and the partial member can not possibly be disclosed. Also, in regard to Claim 5, the alleged circular-arc piece and partial member of Kubo et al. do not form a hollow cylinder, as they are positioned side-by-side.

It is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is not described or suggested by Kobayashi and Kubo et al. Removal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Kubo et al. and further in view of Frohlund et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,547). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged that Kobayashi and Kubo teach the limitation of claims as discussed above but fail to teach a circuit board in the manipulation-side cabinet and a display in the display-side cabinet being connected to each other by a flexible lead, and the flexible lead being helically wound inside the hollow cylinders formed by the circular-arc pieces and the partial members.

It is further alleged that Frohlund teaches a circuit board in the manipulation-side cabinet and a display in the display-side cabinet being connected to each other by a flexible lead (10) of Fig. 2, and

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the flexible lead (17) of Fig. 4 is helically wound inside the hollow cylinders formed by the circular-arc pieces and the partial members.

Regarding Frohlund et al., it is respectfully submitted that Frohlund does not describe a portable terminal device having a display in one flat cabinet and a manipulation means in another flat cabinet, with a flexible lead connecting the display and the manipulation means. In the device of Frohlund et al. the display (4) and the manipulation means (5) are both located in the same cabinet (2). Component 6 is described as being merely a "flip" or cover for the device which also contains a microphone (7).

It is respectfully submitted that Frohlund et al. does not describe or suggest the features of the present invention defined in Claims 6 and 7. Removal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that Claims 1-7 are patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

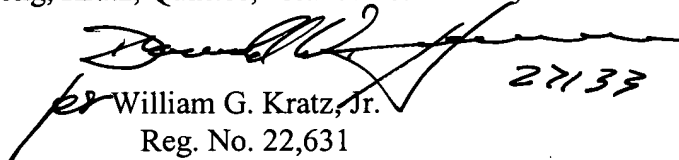
If there are any issues of a minor nature remaining, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' attorney, the undersigned, at Area Code (202) 659-2930.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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